

THE 4-H CLUB PROJECT AS A TEACHING METHOD

Summary of points brought out in the discussion of this extension means or agency by the class in Extension Methods and revised by Extension Seminar. Includes junior result demonstration as a phase of 4-H club project work.

<u>Strong Points</u>	<u>Limitations</u>
1. Serves as an effective medium for getting extension work before the public and builds good will.	1. Adults are often slow to accept junior project results.
2. Catches interest of adults, particularly parents, more easily than does the adult demonstration.	2. Work is not always adapted to needs and wants of rural families.
3. Reaches families which may not be reached through the adult extension program.	3. Projects are often incomplete and unsatisfactory because of limited supervision for the large number of units.
4. Affords boys and girls instruction in farming and homemaking: "Learn by doing."	4. Projects may be too small to be economically sound.
5. Develops desirable standards and ideals for farming and homemaking.	5. Project records are often incomplete and unreliable.
6. Teaches boys and girls the value of research and develops in them a scientific attitude toward farming and homemaking.	6. Ability of members may not be sufficiently challenged by the work.
7. Develops appreciation of nature and respect for country life.	7. Time which elapses before results are available is great.
8. Develops leadership qualities in boys and girls.	8. Success is affected by many uncontrollable factors as weather and insects.
9. Trains boys and girls in organized effort and cooperative action.	9. Members are not always owner-operators of project and do not always receive income.
10. Serves as good source of material for news stories, exhibits, talks, and pictures.	10. Project work is not adaptable to all subject matter.
11. Frequently provides cash income for boys and girls.	11. Cost is high per practice influenced.
12. Compares favorably with adult result demonstrations on "takes to exposures."	

Suggestions for Improvement

1. Stress projects which meet the needs and wants of rural families.
2. Have club projects of such size and character that they will command respect and be economically sound.
3. Increase the influence of 4-H projects through well-planned publicity programs.
4. Provide series of projects with responsibilities and challenges in proportion to age and ability of members.
5. Convert more club projects into junior result demonstrations.
6. Develop better quality of teaching through more careful supervision and better-managed projects.
7. Insist that member is both owner and operator of project, and that he receives returns from the project.
8. Stress importance of well-kept, accurate records.

